

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION  
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR  
ELEMENTARY (GRADES 1-6)**

**I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:**

- A.** A baccalaureate degree from a college or university having a teacher education program approved by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education or from a college or university having a teacher education program approved by the state education agency in states other than Missouri;
- B.** Must have recommendation of designated official for teacher education in the college or university;
- C.** Must have a grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale overall and in the major area of study;
- D.** Must complete the content knowledge or specialty area test designated by the State Board of Education with a score equal to or greater than the Missouri qualifying score;
- E.** Completion of professional requirements, as determined by the recommending college or university, which may exceed these minimum requirements; and
- F.** Individuals who completed their teacher education program outside of the United States shall provide documentation of completion of course work in the following:
  - 1. English Composition, two (2) courses, each a minimum of two (2) semester hours;
  - 2. U.S. History, three (3) semester hours; and
  - 3. U.S. Government, three (3) semester hours.

**II. PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS:** A minimum of sixty (60) semester hours of professional preparation. Competency must be demonstrated in each topic listed to the satisfaction of the teacher preparation institution.

**A. Foundations for Teaching** (Minimum requirement of ten (10) semester hours):

- 1. Foundations of Education;
- 2. School Organization and Management;
- 3. Personalized Teaching Strategies;
- 4. Self Awareness and Human Relations;
- 5. \*Child Growth and Development;
- 6. Psychology of Learning;
- 7. \*Psychology and/or Education of the Exceptional Child (including the Gifted); and
- 8. Behavior Management Techniques (Interpersonal Relationships);

**B. Teaching Methods** (Minimum requirement of fifteen (15) semester hours):

- 1. Reading (three (3) courses required, minimum total of eight (8) semester hours);
- 2. As a minimum, the teaching method competencies shall include:
  - a. Children's Literature;
  - b. Language Arts;
  - c. Math;
  - d. Science;
  - e. Social Science to include Geography and Economics;
  - f. Art;
  - g. Music;
  - h. Physical Education; and
  - i. Microcomputer Applications in Education; and

**C. Clinical Experiences** (Minimum requirement of ten (10) semester hours):

A minimum of two (2) semester hours of field experiences prior to student teaching and a minimum of eight (8) semester hours of student teaching in elementary grades are required. Teachers meeting certification requirements for Early Childhood or Middle School teaching certificates will be exempt from this clinical experience requirement. A fully certificated secondary teacher with two (2) or more years of secondary teaching experience may satisfy this requirement through the completion of a two (2) or more semester hour practicum at the elementary level; and

**D. Elementary School Courses:**

**1. Courses appropriate for Elementary grades:**

- a. Mathematics (two (2) courses, minimum total of five (5) semester hours)
- b. Economics;
- c. Geography;
- d. Health; and
- e. Art or Music; and

**2. Area of Concentration:**

The student must have a total of at least twenty-one (21) semester hours in an area of concentration.

**\*Denotes minimum of two (2) semester hours required.**